



Roll Call Number

Agenda Item Number

5

Date February 9, 2026

Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Iowa.

That the following application is hereby disapproved for the issuance of a retail alcohol license for lack of good moral character and this endorsed disapproval shall be forwarded to the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division of the Iowa Department of Revenue:

Tafari Restaurant, 3900 E 14th Street, Special Class C Liquor License application.

Moved by _____ to deny the license.

Second by _____.

Approved as to form:

Reagan Peterson

Reagan Peterson

Assistant City Attorney

COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
BOESEN				
SIMONSON				
VOSS				
BARRON				
WESTERGAARD				
MANDELBAUM				
GATTO				
TOTAL				
MOTION CARRIED				
			APPROVED	

CERTIFICATE

I, LAURA BAUMGARTNER, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

Mayor

City Clerk



January 30, 2026

Wol Yak
1215 11th St. Apt. 303
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Re: Tafari Restaurant
3900 E 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50313

Dear Mr. Yak,

The City of Des Moines has reviewed the pending liquor license application. Upon review, the recommendation to City Council will be to deny the application based on lack of "good moral character" as defined in Iowa Code Chapter 123.

Tafari Restaurant is a restaurant on the property commonly known as 3900 E. 14th Street in Des Moines, Iowa. Tafari Restaurant is owned by Wol Yak.

Liquor license applicants must meet the standards of "good moral character" as defined in state code. Applicants are considered to be of good moral character if the person has such financial standing and good reputation. In evaluating good reputation, the City may consider the following:

- A pattern or practice of sales of alcoholic beverages to persons under the legal age for which the licensee or permittee, or the licensee's or permittee's agents or employees, have pled or have been found guilty.
- A pattern or practice by the licensee or permittee, or the licensee's or permittee's agents or employees, of violating alcoholic beverages laws and regulations for which corrective action has been taken since the previous license or permit was issued.
- Sales to intoxicated persons.
- Licensee or permittee convictions for violations of laws relating to operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol and the recency of such convictions.
- **Licensee or permittee misdemeanor convictions and the recency of such convictions.**
- A pattern or practice by the licensee or permittee, or the licensee's or permittee's agents or employees, of failing to cooperate with the department of public safety, the division, the county attorney, the county sheriff and sheriff's deputies, the city police department, or the city attorney.
- A pattern or practice by the licensee or permittee of violating local ordinances established by the local authority pursuant to Iowa Code section 123.39(2).
- A pattern or practice by the licensee or permittee of failing to report any change in the ownership or interest of the business pursuant to Iowa Code section.

Mr. Yak has the following relevant criminal history:



- SMAC413791 – Guilty of Assault – 6.20.25
- SMAC413791 – Guilty of False Report – 7.9.24
- SMAC413467 – Guilty of Harassment 3rd – 6.5.24
- URNTA1149335 – Guilty of No After Hours Permit – 2.18.24
- SMAC405537 – Guilty of selling or dispensing alcohol or beer after hours – 4.2.23
- SMAC403345 – Guilty of selling or dispensing alcohol or beer after hours – 11.6.22

Mr. Yak has the following relevant history of civil infractions:

- WDCICI010329 – Guilty of operating event venue without permit (x2) – 6.24
- URCICI009299 – Guilty of permitting live music – 7.17.21

Based on Tafari Restaurant's ownership's lack of "good moral character," the recommendation will be to deny the renewal. Such denial will be considered by the City Council at its February 9, 2026 meeting. The item will be on the Consent Agenda and can only be removed from the Consent Agenda by a member of the Council. If you wish to address Council on the item you will need a Council member to move to remove it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott Sanders".

Scott Sanders
City Manager